

**Remarks of
Carolyn Goerner
West Hartford Public Schools**

**Before the Education Committee
On S.B. No. 24, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS**

February 21, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee.

My name is Carolyn Goerner and I am a teacher in Connecticut. I am not an angry teacher. I am a professional who has loved teaching students for 18 years now. I am tenured. I think it is very important to respect the education and training that professionals have earned through their individual experiences, whether they are professional lawyers, doctors, police, elevator technicians, plumbers or teachers. As a parent, I know that I am responsible for cultivating my children's outlook on education, for teaching them to maintain their health, for showing them how to pursue their own happiness. As an educated professional teacher, I also recognize that I am a dependable, reliable source of information with regard to HOW to teach, HOW to learn, HOW to structure a classroom, HOW to foster a desire to learn, HOW to deal with students who might possibly be at risk, and HOW to deal with difficult situations. I have a master's degree in Education and I use it wisely and proudly.

While I respect Governor Malloy as a political leader, he is no teacher. He does not have the years of experience and understanding about a very, very complex profession. He needs to CONSULT WITH TEACHERS, not "educational specialists" who have never taught. He needs to CONSULT WITH TEACHERS, not with parent groups who have never managed a classroom FULL of individual children with their own ideas, learning challenges, interests, faults, and strengths. Governor Malloy needs to consult with TEACHERS about how education should progress in Connecticut.